

WHY ME? HELP AND HOPE FOR THE HURTING: FACTOR ONE

We Reap What Adam Sowed – The Curse/Chapter Three: Life’s Futility

The fall of the human race has created a futility about our earthly life that is undeniable. No matter how much we may try to completely overcome it, we can’t and we won’t. If Adam can be compared to the Humpty Dumpty of nursery rhyme fame, then we as his descendants are like the king’s soldiers and men who can’t put things back together again. Why? We are living under a curse that only God can, and one day, will remove. In the meantime, the better we understand the pervasive nature of life’s futility, the better we will cope with it, and live our lives in harmony with God’s purposes in the midst of it. Let’s begin with Exodus 4:11, where we read this –

“The Lord said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?’”

This is an amazing statement. While encouraging Moses about the empowerment he would receive in speaking to Pharaoh, as well as the people of Israel, God also claims responsibility for a variety of human impediments. God does not point toward demonic activity, nor does He focus on specific sinful behavior on the part of individuals, as the direct cause of these adversities. God asserts that He is the One who creates people in these negative conditions.

How can a God of love be the primary agent behind such suffering? The answer cannot be repeated enough. He is not only a God of love, but a God of justice who must judge sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, it was God’s just and righteous nature which moved Him to impose the curse, and that very same aspect of His perfect character requires Him to continue enforcing it. As a result, through no direct fault of their own, people are born with birth defects or handicaps and experience other types of ailments later in life, all of which create various levels of suffering. These hardships take place, not because God enjoys seeing us suffer, but because His justice demands it. We must always remember what Jesus said in answering His disciples’ question in John 9:1-3; before jumping to conclusions about the causes of an individual’s suffering. Lest we become guilty of the sins of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar, in their response to the suffering of Job. Much more about that in our upcoming studies.

Why some people suffer in this way more than others, God only knows. Why such suffering is so varied in kind and degree is a question which only God can answer. Consider the warning of Deuteronomy 29:29 in regard to speculating about what God has decided to keep secret. However, in the broadest and most general sense, the answer which God has revealed, is to be found in the harsh reality of a fallen humanity living under the curse. As a result, all of us without exception, to one extent or another, will be touched by this curse. When we are and we wonder why, understanding its overall implications can be of enormous help. It not only keeps us from a false sense of guilt, but also enables us to accept suffering as an essential aspect of God’s plan for our lives, without questioning His love.

What we will discover in future studies, as we seek to apply our understanding of why we suffer, is that our spiritual growth as a child of God is dependent upon how we respond to the adversities of life which God allows to come our way.